

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR
OBSCURING ACCESS PATTERNS
USING A BUFFER MEMORY

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 A method and system for obscuring user requests for information in a
computer network. A user request for information, aimed at another network member, is
routed to a first cache memory. If the first cache memory contains the requested
information, the cache returns the requested information in response to the user request
without releasing the user request to the network member. If the first cache memory does
10 not contain the requested information, a first reference editing function edits user identity
information contained in the request, resulting in an edited request with obscured identity
information. The edited request is then released to the network member and the requested
information is received by the user from the network member. A copy of the requested
information is stored in the first cache memory. In this method and system, user privacy is
15 enhanced because user requests for information that can be satisfied by information stored
in the cache memory are not revealed to other network members, and user requests that
cannot be satisfied by the cache memory are obscured by the reference editing function
prior to release to other network members. A software program and system for
implementing the method are also disclosed.

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